

# W·I·N·G·S·P·A·N

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SEPTEMBER 1993

*Karen Steenhof, Editor*

*Kay Sundberg, Editorial Assistant*

## ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Plans for RRF's Annual Meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina are now being finalized. The conference will feature an extensive scientific program, several field trips, and a wildlife art exhibition featuring well-known local and regional artists. A variety of vendors will also display and sell raptor-related merchandise.

Events will begin on Wednesday, November 3rd with a full-day field trip to the 22,000-acre Congaree Swamp in South Carolina. The RRF Board of Directors will also meet on Wednesday, and there will be a Wednesday evening reception for all conference attendees.

The scientific program begins on Thursday, November 4th with both oral and poster presentations on all aspects of raptor biology, ecology, and management. The local committee has arranged for a special reception Thursday evening at "Discovery Place," one of America's top hands-on science and technology museums. All registrants will receive a complimentary ticket to the event, including an opportunity to view the OMNIMAX film, "Antarctica."

Paper sessions continue on Friday, November 5th, with raptor videos on Friday evening. Afternoon field trips to Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge, the Carolina Raptor Center, and/or the North Carolina Zoological Park can be arranged on either Thursday or Friday for those not wishing to attend all of the scientific sessions. Registration will include free passes to the Mecklenburg County Aquatic Center and the Carolina Raptor Center.

Saturday, November 6th will feature a day-long symposium on "Raptors Adapting to Human-altered Environments." Subjects will include raptors in urban-suburban habitats and raptor use of power lines, highway signs, and artificial nests. A separate registration fee of \$10 will be charged for the symposium. The annual meeting will culminate with Saturday night's banquet and awards presentations.

Registration information is now being sent to all members. Additional registration materials are available from The Carolina Raptor Center, P.O. Box 16443, Charlotte, North Carolina 28297. Deadline for early registration is **October 10, 1993**.

The meeting will be held at the Charlotte Marriot City Center. To reserve a room, call 1-800-228-9290 and state that you are with the Raptor Research Foundation Conference. You must make reservations before **October 12** to insure conference room rates of \$72+tax. Charlotte is served by USAir, American, Delta, TWA, and United Airlines. USAir is offering a discount to travellers and will make a contribution to the Raptor Center for each discounted reservation.

See you there!



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## — RRF BUSINESS NEWS —

Proposed by-law changes were overwhelmingly approved by a mail vote of the membership this summer. The adopted changes mean that Raptor Research Foundation Inc. officers will now be elected by the general membership, not just the Board of Directors. The first general election for President will be in 1994 and in even-numbered years thereafter. The person elected will serve as President-Elect for one year prior to taking over as president at the end of the Annual Meeting in 1995. The President's term is for two years, after which he/she shall serve in an ex-officio capacity as Past-President on the Board of Directors for four years. The Vice President also will be elected in 1994 and will serve a two-year term, beginning at the end of the Annual Meeting in 1994.

Also approved by the membership were new guidelines for handling resolutions about scientific, conservation, and educational issues. Resolutions Committee Chairperson, Dave Garcelon, reports that no resolutions were received by the 15 August 1993 deadline. Therefore, no resolutions will be considered at the November 1993 business meeting. Complete copies of the revised by-laws will appear in the next version of *The Kettle*.

This fall, the membership will vote on four open directorships (eastern, international, and 2 directors-at-large). A call for nominations was sent out, and the Nominations Committee has prepared an interesting and exciting slate of nominees. Ballots will be mailed in September, with a voting deadline of 15 October. All members are encouraged to participate in this important vote. Results will be announced at the November meeting.

### THE RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC. (FOUNDED 1966)

PRESIDENT: Richard J. Clark  
VICE-PRESIDENT: Michael W. Collopy

SECRETARY: Betsy Hancock  
TREASURER: Jim Fitzpatrick

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The *Wingspan* is distributed twice a year to all RRF members. It is also available to non-members for a subscription rate of \$10 per year. *The Journal of Raptor Research* (ISSN 0892-1016) is published quarterly and available to individuals for \$24.00 per year and to libraries and institutions for \$30.00 per year from *The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc.*, 12805 St. Croix Trail, Hastings, Minnesota 55033, U.S.A. Add \$3 for destinations outside of the continental United States.

Persons interested in predatory birds are invited to join The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. Send requests for information concerning membership, subscriptions, special publications, or change of address to *Jim Fitzpatrick, Treasurer, 12805 St. Croix Trail, Hastings, Minnesota 55033, U.S.A.*

## ARE SHRIKES AND RAVENS RAPTORS?

### ■ GUEST OPINION ■

Since the incorporation of the Raptor Research Foundation in 1966, confusion has existed regarding which species of birds are embraced by the Foundation. Members of the Orders Falconiformes and Strigiformes, for instance, were readily considered "raptors," but the status of other predatory species, such as certain members of the Order Passeriformes (e.g., shrikes and ravens), has remained ambiguous.

This ambiguity has never been formally addressed by the Foundation, resulting in potential missed opportunities for interactions with researchers studying species that may provide important insight into management of raptorial birds in general. During my years of submitting research papers on common ravens to the Foundation's annual meetings, I received mixed responses. In 1984 and 1987, I presented papers at the meetings in Blacksburg, Virginia, and in Boise, Idaho, respectively; acceptance of my papers for inclusion in these meetings was uncontested. However, recently, my paper was initially rejected from inclusion in the 1992 meetings in Bellevue, Washington, on the grounds that the raven was not a raptor. After contesting this decision, and pointing out that raven papers had been presented at annual meetings in the past, the decision was overturned, and my paper was accepted.

Experiences such as the above, demonstrate the need for the Foundation to better define what species it considers to be raptors to eliminate confusion among contributors to the annual meetings and *The Journal of Raptor Research* and to more efficiently and effectively attain the Foundation's goals. In Article I, Section 2, of the current bylaws, the stated purpose of the Foundation is "to stimulate the dissemination of information concerning raptorial birds among interested persons worldwide and to promote a better public understanding and appreciation of the value of birds of prey." In Article VIII, Section 5, the Foundation is said to "develop and distribute Resolutions regarding scientific, conservation, and educational issues involving raptors and other natural resources." Achieving such goals requires a clear understanding of the Foundation's more basic reason for existence.

Two of the main benefits of forming a specialized ornithological organization such as the Raptor Research Foundation, Incorporated include providing a forum for researchers to exchange information on current research techniques that are applicable among the select group of species and to concentrate efforts to support a group of species that is affected similarly by certain environmental conditions. In fact, one of the primary motivations for originally forming the Foundation was to respond to the impacts on raptors of the use of persistent agricultural chemicals.

Thus, in order for the Foundation to achieve its stated purpose and to maximize the benefits to the scientific community of forming such a specialized organization, I suggest that the selection of birds to be embraced by the Foundation not be based on taxonomic or morphological criteria, but on behavioral and ecological grounds. The term "raptor" or "bird of prey" distinguishes a distinct ecological role for a particular avian species that functions at the top of the food chain by killing or scavenging other animals to obtain food. Some birds, such as ravens, straddle different levels in the food chain, serving as both primary and secondary consumers. Nevertheless, ravens tend to function at the top of the food chain, and thus they often interact or compete with other raptors for the same resources.

I further suggest that once a resolution is reached, those species acknowledged as raptors by the Foundation be stated clearly in the guidelines for authors contributing to *The Journal of Raptor Research* and in the Call for Papers for the annual meetings to eliminate confusion and to attract other important research that is relevant to the overall management and conservation of raptorial birds.

Kathleen A. Engel, M.S.



# ORGANIZATION

## HAWKWATCH INTERNATIONAL



H a w k W a t c h  
I n t e r n a t i o n a l  
(HWI), a nonprofit,  
member-based  
group, was founded  
in 1986 to address  
a critical need for  
basic information  
on raptor popula-

tion trends and migration patterns in western North America. HWI currently oversees nine flyway projects in six western states and Mexico. At each site standardized, daily, season-long counts are conducted to assess regional trends in migratory populations of 15 raptor species. In addition, at three locations (two in New Mexico and one in Nevada) large scale, all-volunteer crews capture and band as many of the migrants as possible to learn more about the birds' migratory habits and mortality factors.

In addition to the field studies, HWI also conducts an ambitious public education program. Injured, nonreleasable hawks augment HWI's informative slideshows to emphasize raptors' ecological role in natural communities. Student interns and

volunteers work cooperatively to reach over 20,000 youth each year.

To date, HWI has captured and banded over 22,000 raptors (with over 20,000 of these in the Goshutes of eastern Nevada). Goshute-banded birds have been found from Alaska's North Slope to Chiapas, Mexico, and from Puget Sound to southeastern New Mexico. Encounter rates are 0.7% overall, with over half coming from western Mexico. Clusters of Goshute-banded birds have been found in northern Sinaloa, near the Gulf of California coast. Immature birds are most often found dead in fall and winter, whereas adults are more frequently found in spring. Eastern Washington and southern British Columbia are "hotspots" for recoveries to the north of the Goshutes. In the 13-year history of the Goshute Project, only 25 birds banded in the Goshutes have been recaptured in subsequent years. This suggests a broad, widely dispersed flyway. The Goshute data has also yielded the Cooper's hawk longevity record: 12.7 years!

HWI's count information from four locations (Utah, Nevada, and New Mexico) was

# PROFILE

recently summarized in a report to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: "Patterns and Recent Trends of Migrant Hawks in Western North America." Findings included: 1) a significant positive relationship between counts and the number of observers; 2) no statistical correlation between weekend visitors and the hawkcounts; and 3) no statistical relationship between observer experience and the number of hawks detected. Counts were adjusted to account for the observer effect, and three statistical techniques were used to analyze the data for trends.

This preliminary analysis revealed no obvious trend for most species. However, the counts for four species did suggest a trend. Osprey and turkey vulture counts showed a statistical increase at two of four sites. In contrast, counts of northern goshawks and golden eagles demonstrated statistical decreases at three of the four sites. These analyses include data taken from 1977 to 1991, and the re-analysis with updated information through 1993 is in process. More recent data indicates the continuation of positive trends in vultures and osprey, but both eagle and goshawk numbers have rebounded the last two years. A few more years of standardized counts are needed before long term population trends can be established with confidence.

New research plans are being developed to investigate the migration patterns of goshawks and golden eagles, and to test the validity of using hawk counts as a method for assessing large scale changes in raptor breeding populations.



Funding for HawkWatch International has come from a variety of sources, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (as well as comparable agencies in Washington, Oregon, and Utah), U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, National Audubon Society - George Whittell - Nevada Environment Fund, and several local Audubon chapters, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, several mining companies, and the individual members and supporters of HWI. Memberships begin at \$25 a year; members receive HawkWatch International's quarterly publication, "Raptor Watch," and discounts on books and other merchandise. For more information contact: *HawkWatch International*, P.O. Box 660, Salt Lake City, UT 84110, (801) 524-8511, or P.O. Box 35706, Albuquerque, NM 87176, (505) 255-7622.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS, SEMINARS, & WORKSHOPS



### 1993

#### SEPTEMBER 11 - 15

1ST EUROPEAN MEETING OF THE RAPTOR  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION.

##### **Canterbury, England**

*Contact: Dr. Mike Nicholls, Christ Church College,  
North Holmes Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT11QU,  
England*

#### SEPTEMBER 13 - 14

INTEGRATING TIMBER AND WILDLIFE ON  
FORESTED LANDS

##### **Portland, Oregon**

*Contact: Western Forestry and Conservation  
Association, 4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, OR  
97221 (503-226-4562)*

#### OCTOBER 10 -13

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND  
WILDLIFE AGENCIES

##### **Atlanta, Georgia**

*Contact: Timmy B. Hess, Georgia Dept. Natural  
Resources, 205 Butler St. S.E., Suite 1362, Atlanta,  
Georgia  
(404-656-3524)*

#### NOVEMBER 3 - 6

RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION MEETING  
**Charlotte, North Carolina**

*Contact: Robert S. Gefaell, Carolina Raptor  
Center, P.O. Box 16443, Charlotte, NC 28297  
(704-875-6521)*

### 1994

#### MARCH 18 - 23

59TH NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
CONFERENCE

##### **Anchorage, Alaska**

#### JUNE 21 - 26

THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION,  
THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY,  
and THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
1994 ANNUAL MEETINGS, HELD JOINTLY

##### **Missoula, Montana**

*Contact: Dr. James Kushlan, Program Coordinator,  
Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Mississippi, University,  
MS 38677*

#### JULY 24 -30

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR SOCIETY

##### **Seattle, Washington**

*Contact: James C. Ha, Regional Primate Research  
Center, Univ. of Washington, 1-421 Health Sciences  
Bldg., Seattle, WA 98195*

#### AUGUST 21 - 27

XXI INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL  
CONGRESS

##### **Vienna, Austria**

*Contact: Interconvention, A-1450, Vienna, Austria.*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ATTENTION: ALL WINGSPAN SUBSCRIBERS:** The Post Office does not forward third class mail. If you have moved and wish to continue receiving *THE WINGSPAN*, please notify Jim Fitzpatrick, RRF Treasurer, of your address change. Jim's address is: 12805 St. Croix Trail, Hastings, Minnesota 55033.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

A FIELD ASSISTANT is needed for behavioral and environmental toxicology research of breeding Great-horned Owls in Colorado. This research will involve live-trapping Great-horned Owls and their prey, tracking owls with radio telemetry, collecting blood and tissue samples for contaminant analysis, and monitoring owl behavioral activities. The field assistant will need to work from January through May under diverse weather conditions and work hours. Salary will be \$800 per month. Previous experience with radio telemetry, raptor trapping and handling, or tissue collecting is advantageous. Applicants should send vitae, letter of interest, and 3 letters of recommendation by 1 October 1993 to: *Tom Sproat, Dept. of Range and Wildlife Management, Texas Tech Univ., Lubbock, TX 79409; (806-742-2841; FAX 806-742-2280).*

RAPTOR BANDING ASSISTANTS needed 15 Aug to 31 Oct-15 Nov for studies of raptor migration at the Hawk Ridge Research Station, Duluth, Minnesota. Assistants will participate in recording observations, trapping, and banding of migrating hawks and owls. Experience with banding and mistnets necessary and raptor experience preferred. Crude, cramped, but dry and functional housing provided on-site. Late fall weather can assume very wintry proportions. Stipend of \$500-\$700/mo. depending on qualifications. Send brief resume and names, addresses, and phone numbers of 2 references to *DAVID L. EVANS, 2928 Greysolon Rd., Duluth, MN 55812 (218-724-0261).*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR POSITION available with small, ongoing project investigating raptor distribution and use of a National Guard training area and adjacent areas of the Snake River Birds of Prey Area. Study 1 of the BLM/Idaho Army National Guard Research Project is funded by the Department of the Army, administered by the Raptor Research Center at Boise State University, and is 1 of 5 studies in a 5-year, multi-agency project assessing the effects of military training and other human activities on raptors, prey species, and habitat in the SRBOPA.

Successful applicant must have strong quantitative skills, with a background in statistics preferred; good writing skills; ability to cooperate closely with researchers from associated studies and other agencies; and willingness to commit to the final 2 years of the project. M.S. or Ph.D. desired. Salary \$26,500+, commensurate with experience, with full Boise State University benefits. Starting date as close to 1 October 1993 as possible. Contact *Christine Watson, Study 1, 5666 W. Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, ID 83709; phone (208-362-3871).*

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE for HawkWatch International in Salt Lake City. PhD required, soft money position, \$1,200/month, 6 month minimum commitment. Position will continue with earned grants. Responsibilities include development of research grant proposals and scientific papers. Send resume, references, and sample of published manuscript(s) to *Steve Hoffman, HawkWatch International, Inc., P.O. Box 660, Salt Lake City, UT 84110.*

FIELD ASSISTANTS (3) to assist in study of Ferruginous Hawk winter ecology. Experience radio-tracking or trapping raptors preferred. Must have valid state driver's license. One full-time, 1 Oct 93 - 31 Mar 94, \$1,200/mo. Two part-time, 1 Nov 93 - 28 Feb 94, \$7/hr (30 hr/wk). Send letter of interest, resume, and names, addresses and phone numbers of three references to *Dave Plumpton, U.S.F.W.S., Rocky Mountain Arsenal Field Office, Building 613, Commerce City, CO 80022-2180.*

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POSTDOCTORAL POSITION available at the Univ. of Nevada, Reno to participate in a field and laboratory study of dispersal and genetic population structure of Mexican Spotted Owls. Applicants should be familiar with modern molecular genetic techniques, including mtDNA sequencing and microsatellite probes. The project is funded by NSF and is part of a rapidly developing program at the Univ. of Nevada, Reno in population and conservation biology. The successful candidate will be expected to participate in on-going studies and to pursue his/her own research. Send CV, description of previous laboratory and field experience, and names of 3 references to *Dr. Peter B. Stacey, Program in EEC Biology, Univ. of Nevada, 1000 Valley Rd., Reno NV 89512 (702-784-1436).* Applications accepted until position filled. An EO/AA Employer.

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### GRANTS AVAILABLE

**LESLIE BROWN MEMORIAL GRANT:** In memory of one of the most inspired and productive raptor biologists of recent decades, the Raptor Research Foundation announces the availability of this grant, for up to \$1,000, to provide financial assistance to promote the research and/or the dissemination of information on birds of prey. Applicants must send a resume, specific study objectives, an account of how funds will be spent, and a statement indicating how the proposed work would relate to other work by the applicant and to other sources of funds. Proposals concerning

African raptors will receive highest priority among proposals of otherwise equal merit. A complete application must be received by Sep 15. Proposals, donations, and inquiries about tax-exempt contributions to the fund should be sent to *DR. JEFF LINCER, Chairman, RRF Leslie Brown Memorial Fund, 9384 Hito Ct., San Diego, CA 92129.*

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### PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

● **RAPTOR-LINK** is the first newsletter of its kind on Russian birds of prey and owls. Not only is it the first newsletter ever to appear in Russia, but is also bilingual (English-Russian) and is delivered to both Russian and Western readers simultaneously. This newsletter has been launched to encourage raptor research in the former USSR and bring together Russian and Western ornithologists. The newsletter will continue to focus on: Birds of prey and owl distribution and ecology in the former USSR; their migration; biology and conservation of birds of prey and owls in the former USSR; and expeditions and current studies of raptors within the former USSR. Raptor-Link is an independent periodical (3 issues per year) edited and run by Eugene Potapov for the Russian Working Group on Birds of Prey as well as both professional and amateur ornithologists worldwide. Financial assistance for Russian subscribers has been provided by the Peregrine Fund. Three issues of Raptor-Link will be published in 1993, priced (Pounds sterling only) £5 (UK); £6.50 (Europe), £8 (elsewhere). All correspondence should be addressed to *EUGENE POTAPOV, c/o Edward Grey Institute for Field Ornithology, Dept. of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PS, UK (phone 0865-271133; fax 0865-310447; e-mail Potapov @vax.ox.ac.uk).* E-mail contributions welcomed.

● **FALCONS RETURN; RESTORING AN ENDANGERED SPECIES** by John Kaufman and Heinz Meng. Revised second edition 1992. 132 pp.; 107 illustrations. ISBN: 0-88092-027-0. \$20 + \$3 shipping. Available from *Peregrine Falcon Foundation, 10 Joalyn Road, New Paltz, NY 12561.*



● **RAPTOR MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES MANUAL**, 1987 by M.N. LeFranc, B.A.G. Pendleton, K.W. Kline, and D.M. Bird, eds. The Manual, written by raptor authorities with practical experience, includes 19 chapters on field research techniques. It has author and subject indexes, and a foreword by John J. Craighead. It is a valuable techniques guide for wildlife and land managers, consultants, landowners, university faculty, and students. The manual has been designed in a modular format and packaged in a three-ring binder for easy use both in the field and office. Call *National Wildlife Federation TOLL FREE 1-800-432-6564, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Saturday and ask for Item #79780. Cost: \$30.00 plus shipping and handling.*

● **RAPTOR BIOMEDICINE**, ed. by P. Redig, et al. 1993. 288 pp, 59 tables, 72 b&w photos, 60 line illus., ISBN 0-8166-2219-1, cloth \$39.95. *Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2037 University Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55455-3092.*

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

● **JIM BEDNARZ** has accepted the position of Wildlife Ecologist at Arkansas State Univ. Beginning Aug, his address will be *Dept. of Biological Sciences, Arkansas State Univ., P.O. Box 599, State University, Arkansas 72467 (501-972-3082; fax 501-972-3827).*

● **C. STUART HOUSTON** has received three prestigious Canadian awards. He was invested as an Officer of the Order of Canada in late April 1993. He also received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, Saskatchewan's highest honor, in November 1992. He and his wife, Mary, were the first couple ever to receive the Distinguished Canadian Award presented by the University of Regina Seniors Group, Incorporated, in May 1992.

● **STEPHEN W. HOFFMAN** and **DIANN MACRAE** received the Maurice Broun Award, the

Hawk Migration Association of North America's highest award, for outstanding work on behalf of hawk migration study and conservation. The award was presented at the HMANA VI Conference in Corpus Christi, TX, April 1993.

● **DANIEL E. VARLAND** moved from Ames, Iowa where he had been teaching at Iowa State University since receiving his doctorate there in 1991. Dan is now working as wildlife biologist for ITT Rayonier, Inc., a private timber company on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. His new address is: *ITT Rayonier, Inc., Northwest Forest Resources, P.O. Box 200, Hoquiam, Washington 98550. Phone: (206-533-7000; FAX: 206-532-5426).*

## REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

● **WANTED: CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM:** Bill Clark and Brian Wheeler are revising *Hawks*, the Peterson series raptor field guide, and would welcome any constructive criticism on the original edition. Send these to *Clark, 4554 Shetland Green Road, Alexandria, VA 22312*. They have three years to revise the text and illustrations, including the addition of seven new color plates and a color photo sections.

● **FALCON BANDERS:** On 23 October 1992, local office workers observed a color banded raptor, we assumed to be a Peregrine Falcon. The color band, on the right leg was dark, probably black, and had 96R written in white. The bird was seen for a month and was seen eating pigeons on the window ledges (23-24th floors). If you believe that this is your bird, please contact me and I will send you the detailed notes taken by the observers. *Dr. James L. Ingold, Department of Biological Sciences, One University Place, Shreveport, LA 71115 (318-797-5236).*

● **COOPER'S HAWK NESTING SITES WANTED** in Georgia. I would be interested in any information on active or inactive nesting sites for inclusion in a study of the ecology of this species in

Georgia. I am also interested in obtaining taped vocalizations of the Cooper's Hawk, as well as the Great Horned Owl to aid in locating specific nesting sites. If you have any information, please contact *DOUG L. HOWELL, D.B., Warnell School of Forest Resources, Univ. of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-2152 (706-542-2686).*

● FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL information is needed for USFWS status reviews. The USFWS published a finding that the listing of the Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum*) under the Endangered Species Act may be warranted. The FWS has performed a status review of the owl, but continues to seek additional information on the species. They seek information on 1) distribution, abundance and population trends; 2) habitat use, distribution, and trends; 3) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range; 4) overuse for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; 5) disease or predation; 6) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; 7) other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence; and 8) beneficial management practices. The FWS is maintaining a bibliography on the Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, which is available on request. Please contact *TIMOTHY TIBBITTS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3616 West Thomas Road, Suite 6, Phoenix, Arizona, 85019 (602-379-4720).*

● NORTHERN SHRIKE WEIGHTS, MEASUREMENTS, AND DESCRIPTIONS WANTED for the Birds of North America project. Would also like to know arrival/departure dates, immature/mature ratios, predatory observations, and habitat affinities in your area. All contributors will be acknowledged and greatly appreciated! Additionally, I am still interested in all known FERRUGINOUS HAWK NESTS IN MONTANA for a "Gap Analysis-type" project in conjunction with the BLM and the Montana Natural Heritage Program. Please, send information to *ERIC ATKINSON, 4980 E. Baseline Rd., Belgrade, MT 59714 (406-587-0595).*

● For the past 8 autumns, sightings of 15 species of raptors including golden eagle, bald eagle and peregrine falcon have been documented from a fire tower located on Bald Eagle Ridge in central Pennsylvania. This ridge, which is reported to have one of the three highest concentrations of golden eagles in the East, is threatened by Penna. Dept. of Transportation plans to construct a four-lane highway along its crest for approximately 11 miles. Presumably, the high autumn raptor concentrations would be at risk of higher mortality from vehicular collisions and loss of roost sites. Birds may veer off ridge with the new highway disturbance. Anyone with related information valuable for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement such as documentation on ridge mortality, citations, written testimony or some facts on changes to the thermals is urged to contact *Dr. Michael McCarthy, PSU, Shaver's Creek Raptor Center, 203 S. Henderson Building, University Park, PA 16802-6505. Phone (814-863-2000 or Fax 814-865-2706).*

● SHORT-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo brachyurus*) data are needed for the *Birds of North America* account. I would appreciate any unpublished reports of personal observations of the species distribution and abundance; sightings from the Florida Keys, the Yucatan peninsula, and the Gulf coast of Mexico are especially needed; sightings of flocks of migrating hawks especially helpful. Contact *Karl Miller, Dept. of Wildlife & Range Science, 118 Newins-Ziegler Hall, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611 (904-392-4851 or 904-377-5940; FAX 904-392-6984).*

● NORTHERN HAWK OWL INFORMATION is needed for the *Birds of North America* review of this species. Surprisingly few data exist in the published form, other than scattered records dealing with the first sighting for an area, state or province. Any information on behavior, food, breeding, movements, measurements, concentrations of birds, etc., would be most valuable, and fully acknowledged in the final account. *Patricia and Dr. James R. Duncan, Box 201, Craven, KS SOG OWO, Canada (306-731-2600; FAX 306-787-2400).*

## NEWS ABOUT RAPTORS

● THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE HAS ISSUED GUIDELINES that eliminate clear-cutting and old-growth harvest in the Sierra Nevada Mountain range of the California Spotted Owl. The service will cut no trees more than 30 inches in diameter, reducing timber harvest about 50 percent. The move precedes the species being listed as threatened.

● ONE OF THE LARGEST RAPTOR MIGRATIONS IN THE WORLD, 2.5 million birds, was documented in Veracruz, Mexico last fall by a team from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, HawkWatch International, and the Mexican conservation organization Ecosfera. The astounding migration included more than 900,000 Broad-winged Hawks, 400,000 Swainson's Hawks, and one million Turkey Vultures, putting Veracruz on the map with Eilat, Israel as a major migratory corridor.

● A CONSERVATION, ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE FALCONIFORMES AND STRIGIFORMES. Via BirdLife International, IUCN is promoting the idea of the creation of a world conservation action plan for birds of prey and owls. The principal aim is to identify the problems and action needed for each and every species (or sub-species in some circumstances) and collect them together in one source document for worldwide use. The proposal is that the major groups join together in partnership to raise the resources to undertake the project. The groups which appear to us to be in a position to join in are: BirdLife International, FIR, HOT, The Peregrine Fund, RRF, and WWGBP. There is an opportunity to hold a workshop on the project at the Raptor Research Foundation First European Meeting, in conjunction with the Hawk and Owl Trust being held at the *University of Kent, Canterbury, UK on 11-15 September 1993.*

● STELLER'S SEA EAGLES, with a total population of about 7,000 birds, have a relatively small breeding range in eastern Russia, and winter only as far south as northern Japan and China. Dr. Eugeniy Lobkov, the chief ornithologist for the Kronotsky Nature Reserve on the Kamchatka Peninsula, has studied these eagles for many years. He has invited several biologists to join him in investigations of the birds' relative abundance and distribution, habitat use, and conservation measures that can be applied for the eagles and other natural resources in the remote far east of Russia. Last year Mike McGrady and Bernd-U. Meyburg worked with Lobkov and radio-tracked a fledgling south during its migration (Meyburg, in press, *Ibis*). This year Mike was joined by Dave Garcelon, Phil Schempf, and Mark Fuller. The former did surveys in the Magadan Nature Reserve, the latter in Kronotsky. Plans include continued sampling throughout the breeding range and work with Japanese colleagues, including Hajime Nakagawa to learn more of the population biology of this large, relatively unknown raptor.



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**RECENT THESES ON RAPTORS**

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- BREEDING ECOLOGY OF TWO SPECIES OF FOREST FALCONS (*MICRASTUR*) IN NORTHEASTERN GUATEMALA. *R. Thorstrom*. M.S. Thesis, Boise State University.
- ECOLOGY, HABITAT USE PATTERNS AND MANAGEMENT NEEDS OF SHORT-EARED OWLS AND NORTHERN HARRIERS ON NANTUCKET ISLAND. *Karen P. Combs-Beattie*. M.S. Thesis, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- THE ECOLOGY OF WINTERING GYRFALCONS (*FALCO RUSTICOLUS*) IN CENTRAL SOUTH DAKOTA. *Gonzalo H. Sanchez*. M.S. Thesis, Boise State University.

**WINGSPAN CONTRIBUTIONS**

The *Wingspan* editorial staff welcomes contributions from RRF members and others interested in raptor biology and management. Announcements of job openings, grants, meetings, and available publications as well as news of members and requests for information should be sent or faxed to Karen Steenhof, Editor, RRTAC, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705 (FAX 208-384-3493). The deadline for the next newsletter will be 5 February 1994. If you intend to submit more than a paragraph, please notify the editor by 15 January so that space can be reserved.

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